

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 NSC-10 AF-10 OMB-01 DODE-00 /120 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISP:NTERRELL/RES

8/16/73 EXT. 21129

APPROVED BY PM:LSLOSS

EUR/WE:CJOHNSON

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R 162149Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT

S E C R E T STATE 163001

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: NAVAL REDUCTIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

REF: STATE 158822

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR VECCHI CALLED ON PM DEPUTY DIRECTOR SLOSS ON AUGUST 15 TO DISCUSS ANNOUNCED REDUCTIONS IN US NAVAL COMMITMENT ANNOUNCED IN DPQ. VECCHI RECOGNIZED THAT MAIN ACTION ON THIS SUBJECT WAS IN BRUSSELS AND WAS HERE ONLY TO SUPPORT ITALIAN NAVY'S POSITION. VECCHI SAID ITALIAN NAVY WAS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT THE GAP BETWEEN REMOVAL OF EXISTING UNITS AND INTRODUCTION OF REPLACEMENT UNITS. REFERRING TO A THREE-PAGE LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY, VECCHI ALSO CITED NAVY CONCERNS ABOUT THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF CUTS, SINCE US HAD AGREED THERE SHOULD BE NO REDUCTIONS THAT WERE NOT RECIPROCATED BY THE EAST AND,

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IN ANY CASE, NO NAVAL REDUCTIONS.

2. SLOSS EXPLAINED THAT REDUCTIONS OF THIS KIND HAD THE PURPOSE OF REMOVING OUTDATED AND EXPENSIVE SHIPS FROM THE INVENTORY SO THAT FUNDS WOULD BE RELEASED FOR REPLACEMENT UNITS THAT COULD DO THE JOB BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY. HE THOUGHT ADMIRAL ZUMWALT HAD COVERED THE MILITARY RATIONALE EXTENSIVELY IN BRUSSELS. HOWEVER, IF THE ITALIAN NAVY CONTINUED TO HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MILITARY EFFECT OF THESE CUTS, HE SUGGESTED THEY CONTACT US NAVAL AUTHORITIES ON AN EXPERT-TO-EXPERT BASIS. AS TO THE POLITICAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED, THE US BELIEVED THAT THESE WOULD NOT BE SERIOUS IN LIGHT OF THE CONSULTATIONS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN NATO, THE FACT THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY A REPLACEMENT RATHER THAN REDUCTION PROCESS, AND OUR EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH MODERNIZATION CHANGES OF THIS KIND OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HOWEVER, WE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE ITALIANS PRIVATELY AND SINCERELY HOPED THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT BECOME PUBLIC. ROGERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL CAPABILITIES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, TROOP REDUCTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** STATE 158822  
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**Review Date:** 14 SEP 2001  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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